

PUERTO RICAN EDUCATORS
ASSOCIATION OF N. J. INC.
P.O. BOX 5057
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07104



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PROPOSED VOTECASTION ON THE NEWARK BOARD OF EDUCATION
ELECTIONS - APRIL 10, 1980.

On April 10, 1980, The Newark Board of Education will hold its annual elections for board members. This election will have serious repercussions for Puerto Rican educators, the Puerto Rican community and the city of Newark. Ignacio Alfonso, a P.R.E.A. board member, who has unselfishly represented our community for 6 years, made his decision earlier this year to not run for re-election. This poses a serious possibility of the Newark Board of Education being left without any Latino representation.

Compounding the situation, divisions in our community have led to more than one Puerto Rican candidacy for the Newark Board of Education. Past board of education elections demonstrate that any victorious Latino candidate must run in coalition with other candidates from the African-American and white communities. By dividing our resources among different Latino candidates, we help to insure that no Latino candidate will be elected in 1980.

Faced with this situation, the leadership of the Puerto Rican Educators Association met with both the Tina Cruz and Heriberto Torres-Faro campaigns to stress the need for unity around one candidate. Unfortunately, this unity has not been possible, leaving the Puerto Rican Educators Association with having to make choices in the best interests of our members.

The urgency of the situation has led us to conclude that:

a. since California "Tina" Cruz has been a long standing community activist in Newark, including among other activities, presiding over the Latin American Civic Association and being a board member of the Newarkwide Puerto Rican Parade,

b. her concern about education in the city of Newark has been buttressed by having had six children who have attended the Newark public school system.

c. the Tina Cruz campaign has been able to gather the support of broad segments of our community, including many Puerto Rican educators, while at the same time building support from other community and political organizations.

d. the Tina Cruz campaign has been very receptive to our call for unity and is committed to working to build this unity in the Latino community.

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POSITION STATEMENT ON THE NEWARK BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTIONS -2

Therefore, the Puerto Rican Educators Association resolves:

1. To endorse Guillermo "Tito" Diaz for the Newark Board of Education elections on April 26, 1991.
2. To call on our Executive Board and general membership to offer their resources and assistance to help ensure his election on April 26, 1991.
3. To continue to work on building the unity of the Latino community to insure adequate Latino representation on the Newark Board of Education.

Approved on April 8, 1991.

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